

it is true, as the season is late or early, but yet each retaining its general place in the succession, and each appearing at the same time.

The banks of the railway-cuttings, which some condemn as being ugly, are the flower-gardens that gladden the eyes, especially in early spring, of thousands who have been pent up in the smoke of London for months. When first the golden coltsfoot spangles the banks, I can scarcely resist the desire to be moving along the lines. These flowers come and go in a day, almost as if by magic. They are followed, at least near London, by the lilac lady-smock; then come the cowslips, and in the copses which are often to be seen at the bottom of the banks, and in the hedges by the field-sides, the primrose and the wood-anemone, and, more obscure, but easily seen by sharp eyes, the wood-sorrel; and the hyacinth forms a blue carpet in the distance, and the beautiful golden broom and furze on the bank itself. Then come the large white beds of the wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*); and these are followed by the ox-eye daisy, all nearly of the same height, and each turning its little star-flower towards the great luminary as the world moves. The plants of the same kind being all nearly of the same height add much to the beauty of their appearance. This is especially seen in the fields of clover, which form a purple carpet; but I was especially struck with it in an alpine meadow that was just about to be cut down near the hospital on the Via Mala: there the flowers showed four beautifully even carpets, each to be seen through the other. Just above the pale green herbage, chiefly composed of the alpine dandelion, came the purple gentian, then the blue *Phyteuma*, and above all was the beautiful golden *Trollius*, or globe-flower. It was a sight never to be forgotten.

*Planorbis crista.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—Will you permit me to withdraw that portion of my letter in your last Number which states that I followed M. Moquin-Tandon in adopting the Linnean name *Planorbis crista*? Having adopted it, as any reader of my book may see, in opposition to the views of that author, it only remains for me to apologize to you for my carelessness in making the statement.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

May 1, 1863.

LOVELL REEVE.

*On the Occurrence of Lymnæa stagnalis in Scotland.*

By ROBERT O. CUNNINGHAM, Esq., Prestonpans.

Mr. Lovell Reeve, in his recently published valuable work on the Land and Freshwater Mollusks of Great Britain, says, with respect to *Lymnæa stagnalis*, "This fine species stands alone among the Lymnæacea of the Eastern hemisphere for the conspicuous prominence of its size. In the Western hemisphere it is represented in a remarkable degree of parallelism by the *Lymnæa jugularis* of